

# Counseling Connection

*“The future is not something we enter. The future is something we create.” Leonard I. Sweet*

*Advent Blessings to you and your children! It is hard to believe that it is December already! I have truly enjoyed getting to know your children and it is so exciting to think about the bright future that all of them have ahead of them! The juniors and seniors have been especially busy creating all of the following items for their portfolios. Please ask your child what these items are.*

*Activities Resume*

*Personal Profile*

*How to Request a Letter of Recommendation*

*How to Thank Someone for a Letter of Recommendation*

*It is “crunch” time for seniors as they need to start narrowing their college choices and get applications filled out. Deadlines for college applications and scholarship applications are quickly approaching. The majority of the scholarships your child receives will come from the college they attend. Ask your child what the deadlines are for the colleges they are planning on applying to. If they can’t answer that question, they need to get online and figure it out! We have spent time in class doing these types of searches, so if they tell you that they don’t know how to find it, they are pulling your leg! If you both can’t find it, then your child needs to come and see me ASAP!*

*If you did not attend the financial aid night at Central Catholic presented by EducationQuest or the UNL Extension Office’s Scholarship Night, you may want to set up an appointment with EducationQuest for free help with college planning. See College Planning Bulletin included in family envelope.*

*It’s FAFSA Time! Unfortunately that is about as far away from Fiesta Time or Siesta Time as you can get! My favorite place to siesta is Costa Rica. FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is the application that all students and their parents must fill out to receive any state, federal or college-based financial aid. See College*

*Planning Bulletin for information on filling out the FAFSA. It is important to complete and submit the form before your child's college's FAFSA priority date because financial aid is awarded on a first come first serve basis. If your child does not know that date, they should contact the college's financial aid office.*

*College visits are starting to wind down for the semester! The juniors had a great day visiting Creighton University and College of St. Mary on November 28th. Ask them to tell you about it!*

*Colleges that visited in November:*

*University of NE-Omaha  
Concordia University  
Chadron State College  
Metropolitan Community College  
United States Marine Corps*

*The juniors also received their ASVAB test results. Ask them about it! They started going over results with a representative from NE Army National Guard and will finish reviewing results in December.*

*Coming Soon...Credit Card Blues! December 6<sup>th</sup> Deb Schroeder, from the UNL Extension Office, will present a program to the seniors about spending wisely in college.*

*Test results: In October, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders took Terra Nova Test, the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders took the Plan test and the 10<sup>th</sup> graders took the Explore test. Next week, I will be going over the results of these tests and what your child can learn from these results. Expect to see a copy of your child's test results in the January family envelope.*

*If you have a senior...they have to tell me from memory their Social Security number before they can leave for Christmas vacation! If they do not know it, we will be spending vacation in the building until they memorize it. They tell me the heat gets turned pretty low and it gets darn cold, but I am a tough old bugger! Your child needs to know their Social Security number for all kinds of college-related forms and some scholarships. They should not carry it in their purse or billfold or put it on their phone.*